'FREEDOM FROM REGULATION' IS WHAT PAXTON, ILL., WANTS

Dislike of Government Rulings and Redtape Evidenced By Citizens of Midwest Community.

By BARROW LYONS

(EDITOR'S NOTE—This is one of a series of articles written for this paper by Barrow Lyons, staff correspondent of Western Newspaper Union. He has just completed an extended trip through the nation and in these reports gives his first-hand impressions of what rural America is thinking as we enter the third year of war and the first weeks of a presidential election year. Any opinions expressed are the writer's and not necessarily those of this newspaper.)

PAXTON, ILL.—Dislike of Washington and all its works could hardly be found in more concentrated form than in Paxton, Illinois, a town of 3,200 persons in the heart of the corn belt. Only a few citizens will admit there is anything the New Deal has done that has helped this county seat.

But Ford county holds one of the most prosperous rural communities in Midwestern United States. Before the war, in January, 1939, the deposits in Paxton's two banks totaled $1,631,000; but today they sum up to $4,532,000, an increase of 178 per cent in four years. Paxton is one of the most conservative places in conservative Illinois, which Wendell Willkie has called "the blackest spot on my map." Paxton spurns Willkie as "nothing but a New Dealer."

Clothing merchants in Paxton are making more money than at any time since the boom days of the '20s. A farmer recently calculating his income tax figured he had made a clear profit before taxes of more than $20,000 in this crop year on a gross income of $27,000—and he hadn't sold his 1943 corn crop yet. Most of his income was realized on last year's corn he had held.

So easy is it for shops to sell what merchandise they can get that advertising is at a minimum. Nevertheless, Paxton boasts both a daily and weekly newspaper. The Paxton Daily Record, a four-page paper, sells enough advertising space to break about even; but the Paxton Record, a weekly, makes money in spite of the fact that national automotive advertising has virtually disappeared, and the oil companies buy only about one-tenth of the space they used to take.

Publisher Looks Ahead To Postwar Years

Herbert N. Stevens, joint owner with his brother, Harold H. Stevens, of the Paxton newspapers and printing shop, says they are running their plant now with 13 employees instead of the customary 20. But Mr. Stevens is certain that after the war good times for the printer will

Large share of farmers' income around Paxton comes from corn.

return, because there will be sales advertising as never seen before. No depression is in sight for the immediate postwar years, Mr. Stevens is sure—so he has just ordered a new press to be delivered when peace arrives. He also feels confident that the New Deal regime will be a thing of the past then. He explained:

"Ford County has had about as much of Washington as it can stand. I wouldn't say Paxton was just Republican. There are some Republicans around here who have voted for Roosevelt, you know. Party designations are losing significance. We are just as anti-Willkie as we are anti-Roosevelt. We think he's nothing but a New Dealer.

"When the boys come back from the war you're going to find the greatest bunch of rugged individualists you ever saw. We talk to every boy who comes back on furlough. They can't understand why the government tolerates this strike and slow-down business."

Mr. Stevens can't understand why the government should want 35 million dollars to advertise to get people back on the farm, while the United States Employment Service is advertising in his newspapers for men on the farm to work in war industries. Nor can he see why the soy bean processing factory in Gibson City, 15 miles away, can't get all the soy beans it can handle, because the Commodity Credit corporation directs locally grown beans to cotton ginning mills in Tennessee, despite the fact that the soy bean cake left after pressing out the oil is shipped back to Paxton for cattle feed. These are the things that have turned Paxton people against the New Deal. Mr. Stevens expresses vocally what many others feel.

Incidentally, it should be noted that there is not a labor union office in Ford county and the farmers are strongly anti-labor. In the last election the Republicans scored about five votes to every two Democratic votes, the latter coming mostly from railway workers, a few craftsmen and some tenant farmers.

Carl Shelby, Paxton's grain dealer, gave the clearest summary to Paxton's viewpoint. He is a business man, but his trade concerns the farmer's welfare most closely.

'Too Much Regulation' From Washington

"The thing that bothers us most is that there is too much regulation. The farm program has a tendency to tell the farmer exactly what he can do—and that applies pretty much to the business man too. These regulations were put on when times were hard and prices low, and conditions were benefited by regulation. There seems to be no tendency to drop them when times show improvement. The men in Washington made their program so that a man was penalized if he didn't go along with it. He was almost forced to follow to be in good standing with his neighbors.

"In the grain business we were forced to take whatever the Commodity Credit corporation allowed us to handle, do what they ordered us to do and wait until they got good and ready to pay us for that service. When a fellow is used to doing what he likes, and then someone comes along and tells him what he has to do—well, that gets under the skin.

"What we liked about the old free competition system was that foresight and intelligence were worth something. You might lose money in hard times, but you were allowed to make it in good times, and if you didn't waste it you generally came out all right in the long run. Now they don't let us make money when times are good, and they can't give us any assurance that times will always be good. If they could do that we wouldn't mind giving up some freedom.

"When you once start trying to control economic conditions you have to slap on more and more controls to cover the situations you couldn't foresee, and the thing grows and grows. That's the direction the New Deal seems to be headed in now, and most of us around here think it's time to call a halt and go in the other direction for a while."

As Paxton, Illinois, Views It . . .

Let T. M. Brady, manager, explain Paxton's REA cooperative:

"We have paid all interest and principal when due, and have made advance payments on principal. Our kilowatt-hour consumption is growing steadily with increased use of electricity on the farm. War has given an additional impetus to the introduction of electrical labor-saving devices. Farmers are now installing batteries of chick brooders and pig brooders, and poultry lighting is increasing. Farmers around here say this is the greatest service they have received through the government, although they organized this co-operative themselves, provide the control of management and pay for all the service they get. There is not a subsidy of any kind in it.

Washington Digest

Compromise Forecast in Debate on CCC Extension

Labor to Use Organized Strength to Fight Increased Prices; Administration Is Counting on That Support.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

A few weeks ago, an earnest and agreeable young man came to my office from the American Farm Bureau federation. His name is Ben Kilgore. He is a Kentucky Farm bureau man, a former farm paper editor who has just been put in charge of the bureau's publicity here in Washington, probably as a result of some remarks without any bark on them which Chester Davis, former war food administrator and president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, made at the recent bureau convention.

Davis did not say that the bureau and some other farm organizations were interfering with the war effort and trying to be hoggish by fighting for higher food prices but he did say that the people of the country were beginning to talk that way about farmers. And he told the organization members that if they weren't as black as they were painted, they had better begin telling the people of the country so.

And so the bureau went out for some "new blood." Kilgore is not new to the farm bureau but he is new to Washington. He has served in Kentucky. He knows his subject and can write about it.

I couldn't say whether he has brightened the grim picture which Mr. Davis painted to the bureau—he has hardly had time—but his presence is evidence of dynamics which are energizing this chip of the farm bloc—or one might put it the other way, for the Farm Bureau federation is really the tail that wags the dog when it comes to getting congressional action.

And soon action will begin, for the grace extended to the Commodity Credit corporation expires February 17 and then the fight over the subsidies begins in earnest.

The Federation 'Line'

What the publicity plans of the farm organizations are, I do not know, but this is the "line" as Kilgore expressed it to me:

"The American Farm Bureau federation is not opposing consumer subsidies in order to break down price control and obtain higher farm prices. The present general farm price level is high enough. All we ask is for a few sensible price adjustments on specific commodities . . . Such small and specific adjustments are far more practical and wholesome than a billion or more dollars out of the federal treasury to help pay the consumers grocery bill and to regiment and socialize the farmers of this nation."

The War Food administration, charged with carrying out the war farm program, has no publicity plan. As a matter of fact, the office of Administrator Jones is about the quietest place in Washington as far as the public goes. Its work is carried on without press agenting right now.

One reason why we don't hear much from the war food administrator right now is because the food situation is pretty good. Of course, there is wrangling about prices but that isn't in his department. The last week in January he announced his support prices which can't be carried out unless the three billion dollar agency that keeps floors under farm prices, the Commodity Credit corporation, is continued. Jones made it plain that the 1944 program depended entirely on congressional action. In reply to a question, he said it could be carried out "without subsidies."

There isn't any question that congress will favor the support plan. That's accepted as essential in wartime and sometimes welcomed at other times. The reasoning is that you don't ask a munition maker to sign a contract to deliver machine guns without telling him what the price will be. In order to carry out the farm program, you have to demand certain things of the farmer in order to get the thing you want. Hence the guaranteed price.

But subsidies are a horse of a different color. Support prices protect the producer. Subsidies protect the consumer. Without them, the price ceilings crack.

Farm income has risen 116 per cent in dollars since 1939 when the war in Europe began. During the last war, it rose steadily, 128 per cent. However, there is a catch in those figures. In the last war, the farmer's dollar rose only 13 cents in purchasing power. Today, the farmer's income has risen 72 per cent in terms of purchasing power.

Preliminary Report

Just what is ahead? On or before February 17, debate will begin on the bill extending the life of the Commodity Credit corporation containing an anti-subsidy provision.

Meanwhile, the farm bloc adherents and supporters will probably carry on a pretty good publicity plan for their side and some of the consumer groups will be heard from. Labor will shout the loudest and most effectively. But that is simply because it is a large and a well-organized group. It is a strange thing, but America, which has organizations of almost every kind and description formed largely for increasing the income of its members, has very few organizations formed for the purpose of decreasing their expense. Consumers, as such, are not organized. There are, of course, a few cooperatives but they are hardly more than local affairs and, comparatively speaking, small and weak. This is due to the cheerful American theory that if you haven't got enough money to pay your expenses, you ought to go out and get some more money.

In any case, labor (although organized primarily to get more pay) is going to use its organized strength to fight higher prices and the administration is at present counting on enough support from the labor lobby itself, the results of the prosubsidy publicity on the general public, to sustain a presidential veto of any measure banning subsidies. There is no sign of enough votes to prevent the passage of the bill, but enough are expected to sustain the veto. So that legislative process will have to be gone through with unless the farm bloc feels it has an accurate measure of the administration's strength, as revealed by various test votes, so that it can compromise without going through the veto process. Either way, some kind of a compromise will undoubtedly be reached.

But the way is a weary one.

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Preview of Invasion Tactics

With invasion in the offing I decided I wanted a preview. A little difficult to arrange, I admit. I know, however, that you could see a full dress rehearsal at the amphibious base at Fort Pierce, Fla. That institution has been cloaked in the darkest secrecy until recently. Just before the base celebrated its anniversary I was allowed to look behind the scenes.

No details can be reported of this revolutionary development in American military history that started fresh from zero.

For almost a full week I watched and, in some cases, worked with the men who make "amphibious action" possible—those who go over the transport side into the landing craft and up the beach, and the other men who see that they get there, from scouts and raiders who slip in at night, crawling through the wash of a strange beach to throttle the sentries and clear the way for the others, to the last of the reserves.

I have never met a finer type of man, soldier or marine, and they are all there—army, navy, coast guard, and the engineers, the seabees, the medicos, scouts, raiders and the other specialists. Cooperation is the key to the greatest achievement in amphibious action—army and navy working together as one. It is a navy operation right up to the tide water mark, where the army takes command, but a closely interwoven texture, as much a single unit as a fighting division of land troops or a navy task force.

I talked with their leaders, tough, quiet young men, who have learned by doing—they know what it is to land on a strange shore in Africa or Sicily or the Pacific. They are a great lot—the scouts and raiders (our commandos) some big, some little, some college athletes, some from farm and factory, but all hard, wiry, certain, and anxious for more action.

BRIEFS . . . *by Baukhage*

Wood is growing in our forests at the rate of about 11,000,000,000 cubic feet per year or about 21,500 cubic feet per minute. Wood is being taken from the forests at the rate of about 13,000,000,000 cubic feet per year, of which 2,000,000,000 cubic feet is lost due to fire, insects, and disease. If these destroyers could be controlled, present wood growth would almost balance wood use.

Twenty-seven barter stores have been opened in Berlin, the British radio says, in reporting that the Berlin chamber of commerce had decided to make all wares subject to barter.

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Texas farm woodlands have an excellent record in fire prevention with less than 1 per cent burned annually for the past several years.

Wood is a critical war material—a vital peace-time material. There' a shortage of manpower, therefore fewer people to watch and put out fires—so, there is greater danger than ever from forest fires.

New developements of plant scientists are the more significant because the results of research are being eagerly and effectively applied by farmers.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that at the end of 1943 there were 5,200 frozen food locker plants, serving 1,500,000 families Approximately 78 percent of these are farm families.

—v—

Grease Spots

Auto grease, treated with carbon tetrachloride, usually comes out of a garment after laundering.

—v—

Mental Weight

One way to develop the memory is not to load it with things not necessary to remember. We once knew a man who was proud because he knew how many feet high the Washington monument is

4th WAR LOAN
Let's All
BACK THE ATTACK

When Your Back Hurts
And Your Strength and Energy Is Below Par

It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood.

You may suffer nagging backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with smarting and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.

There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use *Doan's Pills*. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won countrywide approval than on something less favorably known. *Doan's* have been tried and tested many years. Are at all drug stores. Get *Doan's* today.

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AMERICAN FENCE
We received another car of Fence January 29th. Poultry Fence 48 inches. Hog Fence 26 inches. Field Fence 47 inches. As stock is limited please get what you need at once.

BROODER STOVES
Shipment Coal Burning Brooders just came in. Don't put off buying if you need one. There is only a limited quantity to be had this season.

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They are very scarce. We have a shipment this week. They are the famous "PLUMB" axe with handles.

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When you think of fence controllers, think of "PRIME." Backed by many years of manufacturing experience. Our Government is allowing a limited number to be made. If you want one for this year either Electric or Battery, don't put off buying. Get it now so you will be sure to have it when you are ready to use it.

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